

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 1112

LIMDIS

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TAGS: PPDC, PFOR, MDPO, DA, US
SUBJ: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER; PRIME
MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND DANISH
INTERNAL PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 039100

1. ON MORNING OF FEB 22 I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S
MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN. PRIME MINISTER
WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THIS FRIENDLY GESTURE, AND HE SAID THAT
HE PLANS TO WRITE A SUBSTANTIVE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE
A WARM, OPEN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT WHICH WILL
ALLOW HIM TO EXCHANGE LETTERS ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS FROM
TIME TO TIME.

2. I THEN ASKED PRIME MINISTER WHAT THE STATUS WAS OF
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE
THOUGHT AN AGREEMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE DANISH
POLITICAL PARTIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK. IT WOULD BE
BASICALLY "ALONG THE SAME LINES" AS THE ONE SUBMITTED
TO NATO AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY. THIS MEANS, HE
SAID, ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES NEXT
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YEAR AS THE PAST YEAR, TO WHICH MUST BE ADDED THE THREE
"DEFENSE EXPENDITURES" WHICH ARE NOT IN THE DEFENSE
BUDGET (WAGE INCREASES FOR THE ARMED FORCES, ADDITIONAL
EXPENDITURES FOR THE HOME GUARD AND DEFENSE OF THE
200-NAUTICAL MILE ZONE AROUND GREENLAND. THE NET
RESULT WOULD BE AN INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.
THE AGREEMENT WOULD COVER SEVERAL YEARS AND WOULD BE

INDEXED TO OFFSET INFLATION. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT THE PRICE HE WILL HAVE TO PAY TO GET THE AGREEMENT WILL BE A CLAUSE WHICH PERMITS THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT IF NEW CONDITIONS ARISE. HE THOUGHT THIS CLAUSE WOULD BE WORDED IN SUCH A WAY TO SATISFY MOST PARTIES AND WITHOUT UNDERMINING THE AGREEMENT ITSELF.

3. AS FOR THE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION, THE PRIME MINISTER VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING. HE STILL MAINTAINS THAT HE WILL TRY TO GET A COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH OTHER PARTIES, BUT AS I REPORTED EARLIER (COPENHAGEN 1012), HE THINKS THAT BASICALLY IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET SUCH A GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, HE THINKS THAT IN THE LONG RUN, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL CONTINUE ALONE AS A MINORITY GOVERNMENT. SOME CHANGES WILL BE MADE IN THE PRESENT CABINET BUT WILL NOT OCCUR RIGHT AWAY. HE THINKS THAT THE MONTH OF MARCH WILL BE LARGELY DEVOTED TO WORKING OUT A WAGE AGREEMENT. DESPITE STRIKE AND LOCKOUT WARNINGS ALREADY ISSUED BY THE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS, JORGENSEN THINKS THAT A CONFRONTATION CAN BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT TEMPER WILL RISE BEFORE SOLUTIONS ARE FOUND OVER THE NEXT 45-60 DAYS.

4. IN PARTING, PRIME MINISTER REPEATED HIS HOPE THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE ABLE TO STOP IN COPENHAGEN, EITHER ON HIS WAY TO MOSCOW OR ON HIS WAY HOME, TO AFFORD THE DANES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH FIRST-HAND CONTACT WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. HE ADDED THAT HE PLANS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTION THIS IN HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.
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